Inclusion of Muslims in S.T. list

1781. DR. EJAZ ALI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recognises the Muslims in Tribal zone, the aboriginal Muslims; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not including them, the aboriginal Muslims in the Scheduled Tribe fold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Tribes are notified in terms of the provisions of Article 342 of the Constitution. The criteria for determining of a community as Scheduled Tribe are indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large and backwardness. The list of Scheduled Tribes is State/UT specific and the Scheduled Tribes may profess any religion. Thus, it is the name of tribe/community which fulfills the aforecited criteria that is included in the list of Scheduled Tribes after it has been agreed upon by all the concerned agencies in terms of the modalities approved by the Government on 15-6-99.

Funds for development projects for tribals

1782. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is lacking the Government funds, due to which many good NGO and trusts are not getting funds for different social activities and development projects for the tribals;

(b) how much funds have been allocated to the Ministry for different schemes, for new projects, during the last three years; and

(c) the details of total funds granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) Ministry of Tribal Affairs gives grants under its schemes being implemented through NGOs only on receipt of recommendations of the Multi-Disciplinary State Level Committee along with inspection report of the concerned District Collector, utilization certificate of previous grant and complete proposal of the organisation. Preference is given to ongoing projects over the new projects. New projects are considered subject to availability of funds. Since last year no new projects could be considered under the major scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes mainly due to shortage of funds.

(b) and (c) There is no special allocation exclusively for new projects. Details of the funds allocated to the different schemes of the Ministry being implemented through NGOs and releases there under during the last three years are given in the Statement.